

RULE 4.8
SUBPOENAS

(a) Issuance for Witnesses. The defendant and the prosecuting authority may subpoena witnesses necessary to testify at a scheduled hearing or trial. The subpoena may only be issued by a judge, court commissioner, clerk of the court, or by a party's lawyer. If a party's lawyer issues a subpoena, a copy shall be filed with the court. If the subpoena is for a witness outside the county or counties contiguous with it, the judge must approve the subpoena.

(b) Subpoena Duces Tecum.

(1) Upon application of either party, the court may issue a subpoena duces tecum, commanding the person to whom it is directed to produce books, papers, documents or other objects designated in it. The court may direct that books, papers, documents or objects designated in the subpoena be produced before the court at a time prior to the trial or prior to the time when they are to be offered in evidence and may, upon their production, permit the books, papers, documents or objects, or portions of them, to be inspected by the parties and their lawyers.

(2) On motion made promptly the court may quash or modify the subpoena duces tecum if compliance would be illegal, unreasonable or oppressive.

(c) Service. A subpoena may be directed for service within their jurisdiction to the sheriff of any county or to any peace officer of any municipality in which the witness may be, or it may be served as provided in CRLJ 45(c), or it may be served by first-class mail, postage prepaid, sent to the witness' last known address. Service by mail shall be deemed complete upon the third day following the day upon which the subpoena was placed in the mail.

(d) Proof of Service.

(1) When personal service is made by someone other than a sheriff or peace officer, proof shall be by affidavit or by certification under RCW 9A.72.085 or any law amendatory thereof.

(2) Proof of service by mail may be by affidavit or certification, under RCW 9A.72.085 or any law amendatory thereof, of the person who mailed the papers, or by written acknowledgment of service.

(e) Sanctions.

(1) If at any time during the proceedings it is brought to the courts attention that a party's lawyer has abused the power to issue subpoenas, the court may impose upon the lawyer such terms as are just.

(2) No subpoena shall be the basis for a material witness warrant or a contempt of court citation unless there is proof of personal receipt.
